

EDUCATION & LOCAL GOV'T IC
SEPTEMBER 13, 2012
Exhibit 9

2011-2013 ELG K-12 STUDY RE:

WHEREAS: The 2005 Legislature established a definition of a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools as guaranteed by Section 1, Article X of the Montana constitution;

WHEREAS: In 2005, an interim legislative task force, charged with developing a school funding formula to support the definition of a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools, produced a report with the assistance of national consultants who prepared a cost-based analysis of Montana K-12 education funding;

WHEREAS: In special session in December 2005, the legislature enhanced the school funding formula and appropriated funding to support it;

WHEREAS: In accordance with 20-9-309(5), at least every 10 years following April 7, 2005, the legislature shall authorize a study to reassess the educational needs and costs related to the basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools; and, if necessary, incorporate the results of those assessments into the state's funding formula.

The 2011-2013 Interim Education and Local Government Committee recommends that the 2013 Legislature assign the responsibility for an education funding policy study to an appropriate task force. The committee further suggests that the following criteria be considered by this task force:

1. That the existing Shared Policy Goals established between the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Legislature be used as a basis for creating broad metrics that will align to the goals and lead to agreed-upon funding recommendations for implementation
2. That funding considerations reflect the realities of inflation in the education sector and that they factor in the costs of agreed-upon changes in education policy.